

Dear Chairman Powell,

I don't know where the letter below came from, or who its author is, but it appeared in this field when the page was loaded, and it pretty well sums up the thoughts I wanted to convey to you.

I would add two things:

Your statement explaining your refusal to grant the delay requested by Commissioners Adelstein and Copp states that you are justified in rejecting their request because the majority of Commissioners are ready to move forward. This is an unsettling indication of a type of "leadership by numbers." This is not an election: you are under no obligation to accede to a majority of Commissioners. On the contrary, your obligation is, in your own words, "to protect and advance the cherished values of diversity, localism and competition." This is what Commissioners Adelstein and Copp are clearly attempting to do, and therefore, you ought to be supporting them.

Second, I must call attention to the circumstances our nation finds itself facing at this moment in history. Our security has never been more threatened. Now, more than at most times, the American people need to be able to think clearly and critically. To do this, we must be allowed access to the best and most diverse sources of news and information possible. To concentrate control of our sources of facts and opinions into the hands of a few gigantic, multinational and faceless corporations is to hobble our ability to protect and defend our liberties and the safety of our families. It endangers the very values and freedoms the FCC is supposed to protect.

I urge you to listen to the diverse voices calling for a delay of these proceedings. The letter below calls on you to undertake 3 specific actions. I add my support to that call.

Thank you.
David Wasser

Americans cherish the freedom of the press -- and the diverse viewpoints of that press. You recently stated in an interview that the American press is the envy of the world. Consistent with this logic, the FCC should not tinker with the current system, without fully considering and without further public input, the controversial proposal before your Commission this Monday on further deregulation of media ownership.

In my opinion, this deregulation would benefit a few at the expense of the rest of us. Modifying the ban in most cities on cross-ownership of television and radio stations and newspapers will have serious repercussions for every American. A similar deregulation of

radio, through the 1996 Telecommunications Act, has resulted in a 30% decline of independently-owned radio stations in the United States. This decline has reduced Americans' access to local news via radio. In at least one instance local authorities were delayed in broadcasting important emergency information to the local populace because the "local" radio station was broadcast from out-of-state. Accelerating the disappearance of independent local media by further deregulating television and newspaper ownership is the wrong direction for this country.

Many Americans are concerned about the future of their media, and the effect this decision will have on them. Thousands of Americans have written the FCC to oppose this rule, and members of Congress from both parties have voiced their protest and requested that you testify before them on the matter. Yet the FCC appears poised to ignore the interests of regular Americans by allowing a few massive conglomerates to control our local news sources.

This proposed deregulation threatens the ideals of America-- the ideals of openness, free speech, free expression and free discussion, which are the backbone of our Constitution and our democracy.

Therefore, I urge you to take the following actions: (1) Delay the June 2nd vote by the FCC. (2) Testify before Congress so that the Representatives of the American people can have the opportunity to question the representatives of the Bush Administration. This should include a clarification and explanation by members of the Commission as to free travel and other benefits obtained from the regulated industry, as well as records of meetings with interested parties. (3) Finally, allow for, and consider, additional public input. The FCC must provide sufficient opportunity for public input on a decision that effects every American.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Donald Webster

